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The Precious Pearls

The Description of the Ten Companions Who were Given the Glad Tidings of Paradise

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*In the Name of Allâh
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*

“Muhammad (ﷺ) is the Messenger of Allâh. And those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves. You see them bowing, and falling down prostrate (in prayer), seeking Bounty from Allâh and (His) Good Pleasure. The mark of them (i.e., of their Faith) is on their faces (foreheads) from the traces of prostration (during prayers). This is their description in the Taurât (Torah). But their description in the Injeel (Gospel) is like a (sown) seed which sends forth its shoot, then makes it strong, and becomes thick and it stands straight on its stem, delighting the sowers, that He may enrage the disbelievers with them. Allâh has promised those among them who believe and do righteous good deeds, forgiveness and a mighty reward (i.e., Paradise).” (V.48:29)

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Abu Bakr As-Siddiq ﷺ

The name As-Siddiq is not mentioned except that it brings to mind a number of noble characters and virtues. One's heart will be moved to amazement for As-Siddiq (the truthful).

Abu Bakr As-Siddiq was the friend of Allâh's Messenger ﷺ during his youth up until his old age. In good times or in times of distress, he remained a loyal companion. He was called 'the truthful one' who believed in the Prophet ﷺ when everyone else was turning his back on him. His *Imân* (Faith) was strong, and he was known for his good speech and decent treatment of people. He was exceedingly known for his generosity; and whatever wealth he had, he treated it as if it belonged to the community of believers.

It was enough honor for him that Allâh revealed:

"The second of the two; when they (Muhammad ﷺ and Abu Bakr ﷺ) were in the cave..." (9:40)

The story of the *Hijrah* and of the days in the cave was a model lesson showing how strong a friendship could be.

He was the most beloved of Allâh's creation to Allâh's Messenger ﷺ, and was described as:

"Weak in body but strong in the affairs of Allâh, humble in himself but dignified with Allâh. He was honored in the sight of people, and held with great esteem in their hearts."

The weak were made strong by his influence. Abu Bakr ﷺ was a source of inspiration when times were tough. He was a refuge and stronghold for Muslims in a time when there was much pain and vexation from the idol worshippers around them. Through his example, he scorned the life of this world, and kept away from anything that was not found in the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ. He was a renowned and knowledgeable religious scholar who shared freely his sharp and witty personality.

He was the strongest of the people in belief, the purest of them in creed and the firmest of them in the truth. He was kind hearted to all people, but especially to the Muslims. When there was a violation against Islam, he used to cry; and when Islam was attacked, he reared up like a lion ready to defend the religion and the people he loved so dearly. If it was the oppression of a woman or child or someone in need, he was often the first to lead the people into action.

Imagine! What the status of Islam would have been if he had not deterred so many renegades? His courage and never ending care made the nation strong and powerful. He was much more than an average person.

This was Abu Bakr ؓ who became the best of the Muslims after he reverted to Islam, and he remained so until Allâh ﷻ took his soul.

It is impossible to enumerate all of the virtues and noble characters of Abu Bakr ؓ in a few pages. So, it will have to be sufficient to mention a few in hopes that it will enliven those seeking the truth.

His Name and Lineage

His name is 'Abdullâh bin Abu Quhafah, 'Uthman bin 'Aamir bin 'Amr bin Ka'b bin Sa'd bin Taim bin Murrah bin Ka'b. His lineage meets with that of Allâh's Messenger ﷺ at Murrah.

He was nicknamed 'Ateeq (the one saved from the Fire). The people have various opinions concerning his name. Some say it was because of his good-looking face. Others say it was because of his actions and discourse with people that he had superior manners. Others say it was because of his noble lineage, since he seemed to be one without or with few defects.

It was also said that Allâh's Messenger ﷺ gave him that nickname.

'Âishah رضي الله عنها said:

"By Allâh, while I was in my room, and Allâh's Messenger ﷺ and his Companions were in the yard with the curtain between them and me. Abu Bakr ؓ came in and Allâh's Messenger ﷺ said, 'Whoever would like to be pleased by looking at one who is saved from the Fire, let him look at Abu Bakr.'"

'Abdullâh was the name that his family gave him, but the name 'Ateeq was most often used. In some narrations it is found that during the days of ignorance he was referred to as Abdul-Ka'bah, but when he became Muslim, he was called 'Abdullâh.

'Abdullâh bin Az-Zubair ؓ said,

"Abu Bakr's name was 'Abdullâh. Allâh's Messenger ﷺ said to him: 'You are saved from the Fire.' Hence, he was called 'Ateeq."

His mother was Salma bint Sakhr bin 'Amr bin Ka'b. Her nicknamed was Ummul-Khair (the mother of good), and she was his father's cousin.

His Physical Properties

Abu Bakr ؓ was fair, slender, slightly bent-backed, and had a slender face with large hollow eyes. His forehead protruded slightly, and he dyed his hair with henna mixed with *Katam*.

His Birth

Abu Bakr was born two years and (some months) after the birth of the Prophet ﷺ in Makkah. He spent his childhood and youth there. He did not leave until he began trading, and then he migrated to Al-Madinah with the Prophet ﷺ. He was one of the wealthy people of Makkah, and he was known for his generosity, good manners and honor. He was naturally well loved among the Makkans. He was from the leaders of the Quraish during the days of ignorance, and he was charged with the blood money and debts.

This was because the Quraish did not have a king to rule them.

‘Uthman bin ‘Affan

His Name and Lineage

His name was ‘Uthman bin ‘Affan bin Abul-‘Aas bin Umayyah bin ‘Abd Shams, and he was a Quraishi and Umayyan. His lineage and that of the Prophet meet at Abd Manaf.

He was born in Tâ’if six years after the year of Elephant corresponding to 576 CE. His mother’s name was ‘Arwa bint Kurayz bin Habib bin ‘Abd Shams, and his grandmother was Al-Bayda’ bint Abdul-Muttalib bin Hashim, the maternal aunt of Allâh’s Messenger.

His Surname

‘Uthman was nicknamed Abu ‘Abdullâh (father of ‘Abdullâh) and Abu ‘Amr. ‘Abdullâh was his son from Ruqayyah, the daughter of Allâh’s Messenger. Abdullâh died when he was six years old, i.e. in the fourth year AH.

‘Uthman was also nicknamed Dhun-Nurayn (the possessor of the two lights) because he was married to Ruqayyah and ‘Umm Kulthum, the two daughters of the Prophet. He was the only man who married two of the Prophet’s daughters.

His Physical Properties

‘Uthman was neither tall nor short; he was handsome with wheat-colored hair and a thick healthy beard. He was big boned and wide shouldered.

He was known to dye his beard yellow, and he had heavy hair with a thick growth of hair behind his ears.

‘Abdullâh bin Hazm said:

“I saw ‘Uthman. I have never seen a male or a female more handsome than he.”¹

¹ Al-Mu‘jam Al-Kabir.